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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, issued on 9 January 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled 'Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and special representatives', and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. N. H. BIEGMAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued at Brussels on 9 January 1997

The European Union has noted with appreciation the report of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Felipe González, and fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

The European Union attaches particular importance to the conclusion in that report that the results of the elections on 17 November reflect the will of the majority of the citizens of Serbia and that the coalition Zajedno has won the local elections in 13 cities, as well as in 8 municipalities and the Assembly of the City of Belgrade.

The Union notes the letter of Foreign Minister Mulitinović to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, but calls upon the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and in particular upon President Milosević of Serbia, to accept fully the conclusions and recommendations of the Personal Representative and to act upon them without delay.

Following the conclusions of the European Council of Dublin, the European Union furthermore calls upon the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to enter into a constructive dialogue with the opposition and to ensure the viability and availability of the independent media.

The European Union reiterates its appeal to the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to refrain from the use of force against peaceful demonstrators and journalists.

Recalling its declaration of 9 April 1996 setting out, inter alia, the conditions for the development of good relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the European Union reaffirms its position that only reform directed towards full democratization and liberalization of the political and economic system, in dialogue with the opposition, as well as respect for human rights and for the rights of minorities will bring a solution to the present problems and allow for the full integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international community.